

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PIMA

IN THE MATTER OF:

Jury Trials in Pima County Courts

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2020-48

Due to concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a statewide public health emergency. Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel issued Administrative Order No. 2020-197 to address measures to be taken by the Judicial Branch to conduct business in a manner that reduces the risk associated with this public health emergency. Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-197 directs the presiding superior court judge of each county to determine how in-person proceedings are to be conducted in each of the county's courtrooms under conditions that protect the health and safety of participants and the public. The Order allows individual presiding judges to issue orders limiting in-person courtroom contact, following the social distancing recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, and limiting the number of persons present in a courtroom. The Order further sets forth a process courts in Arizona are to use to return to full operation over time in phases. The court is currently in Phase II of the Chief Justice's emergency health crisis recovery plan, which is appended to AO 2020-197.

This Court issued Administrative Orders 2020-12 and 2020-45 to address the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Administrative Order supplements 2020-45 and 2020-12. This Order addresses all Pima County Courts.

As a result of increased spread of COVID-19 and pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-197 and Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79, the presiding superior court judge in each county should determine when jury trials can safely begin, taking into consideration the physical space of individual courthouses and courtrooms and the public health threat in the county.

COVID-19 infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths are rising dramatically. Immediate action is necessary to prevent the spread of the virus into and through the courts, and to ensure as best possible the health and well-being of court users and personnel. To further mitigate the spread of the virus at this critical time it is necessary to reduce the number of trial jurors entering the courts.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED suspending all jury trials in Pima County Superior Court and all Pima County limited jurisdiction courts, from the date of this order until and through January 31, 2021. Trials currently set for that time period shall be set for telephonic status conferences to set new dates for trial. This Administrative Order shall be read in

conjunction with Pima County AO 2020-45, and to the extent there is a conflict, this Administrative Order controls.

This Order will expire by its own terms at 11:59 PM January 31, 2021, unless extended or terminated early by separate Administrative Order.

DATED THIS 17th day of December, 2020

_____/s/_____

KYLE BRYSON
PRESIDING JUDGE

CC: Ron Overholt, Court Administrator
Superior Court Judges
Juvenile Court Judges
Hon. John Peck, Presiding, Ajo Justice Court
Hon. Ray Carroll, Presiding, Green Valley Justice Court
Hon. Laine McDonald, Presiding, Marana Municipal Court
Hon. George Dunscomb, Presiding, Oro Valley Magistrate Court
Hon. Maria Avilez, Presiding, Sahuarita Municipal Court
Hon. Darlene Chavira Chavez, Presiding, South Tucson Municipal Court
Hon. Antonio Riojas, Presiding, Tucson City Court
Hon. Adam Watters, Pima County Presiding Justice of the Peace
Community Relations
Gary Harrison, Clerk of Court
Michelle Madrid, Director, Case Management Services
Terri Faust, Managing Court Reporter
Ramiro Alviar, Director, Interpreter's Office
Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney
Dean Brault, Pima County Public Defense Services
Joel Feinman, Pima County Public Defender
James Fullin, Pima County Legal Defender
Verne Hill, Office of Court Appointed Counsel
Kevin Burke, Pima County Legal Advocate's Office
Judicial Security
Conciliation Court